

"nearly white" in colour; whether it is blind or not I cannot say for certain, but I can find no undoubted indications of eyes in the specimen before me.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XI.

Phreatogammarus propinquus, sp. n.

Fig. 1. First antenna, $\times 60$.

Fig. 2. Second antenna, $\times 60$.

Fig. 3. First gnathopod, $\times 105$.

Fig. 4. Second gnathopod, $\times 105$.

Fig. 5. Fourth peræopod, $\times 60$.

Fig. 6. End of pleon with uropoda, $\times 60$.

XLV.—*On Barbus aureus*, Cope, from Natal.

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

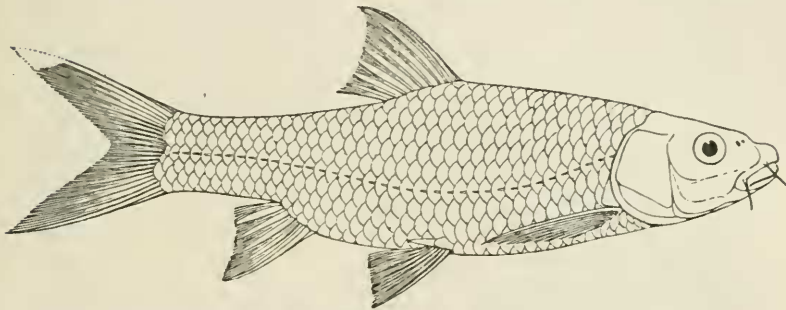
A FISH obtained by Dr. Alden Grout at Umvoti, near the boundary between Natal and Zululand, was described by the late Prof. E. D. Cope in 1869 (Tr. Amer. Philos. Soc. (2) xiii. p. 406) under the name of *Labeobarbus aureus*. The original description was so meagre as to make it impossible to assign the species its position in the system. Having recently had to describe several new Barbels from the eastern parts of South Africa, I felt extremely anxious to know something more of this *Labeobarbus aureus*, the types of which are preserved in the Museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. In answer to an application made through my friend Dr. A. Erwin Brown, I have been favoured by the Curator of the Museum with the loan of one of the types, from which I have drawn up the following definition. The other specimen, which I have not seen, has been compared by Mr. W. H. Fowler, who states that he can detect no difference of any importance between the two.

The fish is not referable to the group named *Labeobarbus* by Rüppell. It has the thin lips and the trenchant lower jaw which characterize the genus *Capoëta* as defined by Günther; but its affinities are with *L. Bowkeri*, Blgr., from Natal, which has the edge of the lower jaw rounded and the lower lip continuous across the chin. It affords a further instance of the unsatisfactory arrangement of the species of this genus according to the structure of the mouth and lips, to which I have alluded on previous occasions when describing species from Morocco, Abyssinia, East Africa, and the Transvaal,

which show remarkable agreement in all characters except the mouth and lips.

Barbus aureus may be thus defined:—

Depth of body equal to length of head, $3\frac{2}{3}$ times in total length. Snout rounded, feebly projecting beyond the mouth, $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head; diameter of eye $4\frac{1}{2}$ times in length of head, interorbital width 3 times; mouth moderate, evenly curved, its width $3\frac{1}{3}$ times in length of head; lower jaw with a sharp edge; lips thin, not extending across the chin; two pairs of equal barbels, measuring diameter of eye. Dorsal III 8, third ray not at all enlarged, articulated, smooth; the fin,



Barbus aureus, Cope. $\frac{1}{3}$ nat. size.

which is equally distant from the occiput and from the root of the caudal fin, has the upper border concave, and its longest ray measures $\frac{4}{5}$ length of head. Anal III 5, longest ray $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head. Pectoral $\frac{3}{4}$ length of head. Ventral below origin of dorsal. Caudal deeply forked. Caudal peduncle once and $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as deep. Scales $37\frac{6\frac{1}{2}}{5\frac{1}{2}}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ between lateral line and root of ventral, 16 round caudal peduncle.

Total length 195 mm.

As stated above, *B. aureus* resembles *B. Bowkeri*, differing in the structure of the mouth. In this respect it agrees with *B. rhodesianus*, Blgr., another close ally, in which, however, the barbels are only about half the diameter of the eye and the scales are larger ($30-32\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{5\frac{1}{2}}$, $2\frac{1}{2}-3$, 12). *B. marequensis*, A. Smith, to which Cope regarded *B. aureus* as most nearly allied, has the lower lip continuous, longer barbels, the last simple ray of the dorsal strong and bony, and larger scales ($33\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{5\frac{1}{2}}$, 3, 12).